

Claims

I claim:

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1. A method for treating a patient suffering from an autoimmune disorder, said method comprising administering an effective amount of an antibody composition, wherein said antibody composition comprises anti-idiotypic antibodies, or antigen binding fragments thereof, which can bind to and inhibit self-reactive pathogenic autoantibodies present in the patient.
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2. The method, according to claim 1, wherein said autoimmune disorder is characterized by the destruction of patients' cells by autoantibodies.
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3. The method, according to claim 2, wherein said anti-idiotypic antibodies are immunoreactive with idiotypic determinants present on antibodies associated with an autoimmune disease selected from the group comprising systemic lupus erythematosus, masthenia gravis, and idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura.
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4. The method, according to claim 3, wherein said anti-idiotypic antibodies are immunoreactive with anti-DNA antibodies.
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5. The method, according to claim 4, wherein said anti-idiotypic antibodies are immunoreactive with idiotypic determinants present on said anti-DNA antibodies, wherein said idiotypic determinants are selected from the group consisting of F4, 3I, 8.12, and 16/6.
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6. The method, according to claim 1, wherein said antibody composition is administered intravenously.

1           7. The method, according to claim 6, wherein said antibody composition is  
2 administered as a dextrose saline solution.

1           8. A method for preparing an antibody composition comprising anti-idiotypic  
2 antibodies, comprising the steps of:

3           (a) contacting pooled gamma globulin with a solid phase substrate, said  
4 substrate comprising an idiotypic determinant of a self-reactive pathogenic  
5 autoantibody, wherein said anti-idiotypic antibodies present in said pooled gamma  
6 globulin bind to said idiotypic determinant; and

7           (b) eluting said anti-idiotypic antibodies bound to said idiotypic determinant.

1           9. The method, according to claim 8, wherein said idiotypic determinant is  
2 expressed on an antibody coupled to said substrate

1           10. The method according to claim 9 wherein said antibody coupled to said  
2 substrate expresses anti-DNA idiotypic determinants selected from the group  
3 consisting of F4, 3L, 8.12 and 16/6.

1           11. The method according to claim 8 further comprising washing said  
2 substrate with a suitable wash buffer prior to eluting in Step (b).

1           12. The method, according to claim 8, wherein said substrate comprises a  
2 plurality of idiotypic determinants of self-reactive pathogenic autoantibody.

1           13. The method, according to claim 8, wherein said idiotypic determinant  
2 comprises a synthetic peptide that duplicates an idiotypic determinant present on a  
3 self-reactive autoantibody.

1 14. An antibody composition, wherein said antibody composition comprises  
2 anti-idiotypic antibodies, or antigen binding fragments thereof, which can bind to and  
3 inhibit self-reactive pathogenic autoantibodies.

1 15. The antibody composition, according to claim 14, wherein said anti-  
2 idiotypic antibodies are immunoreactive with idiotypic determinants present or  
3 antibodies associated with an autoimmune disease selected from the group comprising  
4 systemic lupus erythematosus, masthenia gravis, and idiopathic thrombocytopenic  
5 purpura.

1 16. The antibody composition, according to claim 14, wherein said anti-  
2 idiotypic antibodies are immunoreactive with anti-DNA antibodies.

1 17. The antibody composition, according to claim 16, wherein said anti-  
2 idiotypic antibodies are immunoreactive with idiotypic determinants present on said  
3 anti-DNA antibodies, wherein said idiotypic determinants are selected from the group  
4 consisting of F4, 3L, 8.12, and 16/6.

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